

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A component comprising:

a metal substrate; and

a composite outer layer comprising a plastic and at least one filler, said composite formed on said substrate such that ~~at least a portion of all sides of~~ said substrate ~~is embedded in said composite~~ are covered by said outer layer.

2. (original) The component of claim 1 wherein said substrate is a sheet.
3. (original) The component of claim 1 wherein said substrate has a higher bending strength than a comparable size piece of said composite.
4. (canceled)
5. (original) The component of claim 1 wherein said substrate has at least one perforation.
6. (original) The component of claim 1 wherein said plastic is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyvinyl chloride.
7. (original) The component of claim 1 wherein said at least one filler is selected from the group consisting of cellulosic fillers and inorganic fillers.

8. (original) The component of claim 1 wherein said composite is formed about said substrate by a process selected from the group consisting of extrusion, compression molding, and injection molding.

9. (currently amended) A component comprising:

a sheet of a metal substrate; and

a cellulosic-filled plastic composite outer layer formed about said sheet of said substrate such that ~~at least a portion~~all sides of said substrate ~~is embedded in said plastic composite~~are covered by said outer layer.

10. (original) The component of claim 9 wherein said sheet has a higher bending strength than a comparable size piece of said plastic composite.

11. (original) The component of claim 9 wherein said substrate has at least one perforation.

12. (original) The component of claim 9 wherein said plastic is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyvinyl chloride.

13. (original) The component of claim 9 wherein said plastic composite is formed about said substrate by a process selected from the group consisting of extrusion, compression molding, and injection molding.

14. (currently amended) A component comprising:

a metal substrate having a perforation; and

a composite outer layer comprising a plastic and at least one filler, said composite formed on said substrate such that ~~at least a portion~~all sides of said

~~substrate is embedded in said composite~~ are covered by said outer layer and said composite passes through said perforation in said substrate.

15. (original) The component of claim 14 wherein said substrate is a sheet.

16. (original) The component of claim 14 wherein said substrate has a higher bending strength than a comparable size piece of said composite.

17. (canceled)

18. (original) The component of claim 14 wherein said substrate has a plurality of perforations through which the composite passes.

19. (original) The component of claim 14 wherein said plastic is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyvinyl chloride.

20. (original) The component of claim 14 wherein said at least one filler is selected from the group consisting of cellulosic fillers and inorganic fillers.

21. (original) The component of claim 14 wherein said composite is formed about said substrate by a process selected from the group consisting of extrusion, compression molding, and injection molding.

22. (original) The composite of claim 14 wherein:

said substrate is a metal sheet having a plurality of perforations; and

said composite is a cellulosic-filled plastic composite, said composite passing through said plurality of perforations.